March 2009

Training Tracker

Utah Public Charter Schools



These sessions are geared specifically for <u>principals</u>, <u>directors</u>, and school administrators.

March 27, 2009

Managing Excellence in the Face of the Economic Environment

*We'll discuss creative budgeting and how to s-t-r-e-t-c-h every dollar.

April 24, 2009

Educational Innovation

*We'll discuss innovations that are contextual as well as broad in scope currently being used in our schools

(New requested addition to the schedule!) May 19, 2009

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3-Minute Classroom Walk-Through

*We'll discuss a tool to allow more time in more teachers' classrooms that encourages self-reflection and conversation.

Other opportunities:

A Decade of Innovation

Utah Charter School Conference 2009 Tuesday & Wednesday, June 16 & 17

The Utah Association of Public Charter Schools is pleased to present the **third annual Utah Charter School Conference**, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 16 & 17.

The Conference target audience is very broad. It includes everyone involved with charter schools – administrators, staff, parents, teachers and board members. We also encourage anyone in the community interested in charter school issues to attend, particularly if they're thinking of creating a charter school in the near future. The Conference is returning to the Utah Valley University in Orem.

Dr. Yvonne Chan is keynote speaker this year. She was inducted into the *Charter School Hall of Fame* in 2008. She will delight, amuse and inspire you with stories of how she helped her students achieve in a hard-to-serve area of Los Angeles.

Please contact Susan Soleil for details: Susan@utahcharters.org or 801-554-9495

Upcoming Charter School Trainings

MARCH, 2009:

27 Monthly Directors' Discussion Session

<u>Managing Excellence in the Face of the Economic</u> Environment

USOE – Board Rooms 8:30 – 3:00

Lunch & chocolate provided

Please RSVP to Jeannie Rowland <u>no later than Mon., March 23.</u>Jeannie.Rowland@schools.utah.gov

APRIL, 2009:

10 <u>USOE Finance & Statistics Training & Legislative Update</u>

Attendance Required

Red Lion Hotel

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Breakfast and lunch provided

Please watch for information from the Finance & Statistics Section. They are handling all details and registration.

24 Monthly Directors' Discussion Session

Educational Innovation

USOE – Board Rooms

8:30 - 3:00

Lunch & chocolate provided

Please RSVP to Jeannie Rowland <u>no later than Mon., April 20</u>. Jeannie.Rowland@schools.utah.gov

MAY, 2009: (New addition...!)

19 Monthly Directors' Discussion Session

3-Minute Classroom Walk-Through

USOE – Board Rooms

8:30 - 1:30

Lunch & chocolate provided

Please RSVP to Jeannie Rowland <u>no later than Tue., May 12.</u>Jeannie.Rowland@schools.utah.gov

Please see the charter school website for agendas, as well as training materials from previous sessions.

http://www.schools.utah.gov/charterschool s/training.htm

DID YOU KNOW??

Governor Huntsman has declared this to be The Year of Math. He intends to publicly recognize and spotlight different programs such as honor students, "Math Counts," UCTM Fall Conference, and the PCMI (Park City Math Institute which is known internationally). Districts and charter schools need to let USOE know their highlights. Please contact Patty Hunt for questions: 801-538-7788 or Patty. Hunt@schools.utah.gov.

The Core Academy is a 3-day workshop for K-6 teachers, which focuses on the areas of Math and Science. The 2009 Academy will accommodate 2,000 teachers and is scheduled at 8 locations. Dates are scheduled in June and July. The best lessons from previous years will be updated and presented. Much thought has gone into chosen lessons and materials. There may be fewer take-home supplies, but it is felt that what is given will be used. Registration and fees are due by April 15. Please register at: www.schools.utah.gov/curr/Core Academy. Please contact Jana Johnson at jana.johnson@schools.utah.gov with questions.

That which is spoken from the heart is heard by the heart.

—Jewish saying

Leaders Speak From the Heart, by Dennis Sparks (emeritus executive director of the National Staff Development Council)

Emotions trump facts in motivating human behavior. That was an awareness I acquired only after many years of frustration trying to persuade others to change based on research and logical discussion. This understanding means that in addition to providing evidence to support new practices, it's important that leaders speak from their hearts to the hearts of those they lead to sustain a steady flow of energy for doing the demanding work of continuously improving teaching, learning, and relationships in schools.

When leaders fail to garner commitment to change through logical presentation based on solid evidence, they often misdiagnose the problem as recalcitrant teachers or school structures and cultures that resist change. John Kotter and Dan Cohen offer another view in *The Heart of Change: Real-Life Stories of How People Change Their Organizations.* "People change what they do," they observe, "less because they are given analysis that shifts their thinking than because they are shown a truth that influences their feelings." Because emotions underlie lasting change, leaders' ability to evoke and channel the energy that emotion creates is essential in overcoming inertia and providing the commitment necessary to establish new habits of mind and behavior.

Leaders can evoke feelings when they speak with passion about the values that guide their lives and of the values shared by the school community. They can elicit emotions by telling stories to touch the hearts of those they lead. For example, leaders touch hearts when they speak from their hearts about the incidents and events that shaped them as human beings and led them into teaching and school leadership. They can also invite others to share the influences that shaped their lives and professional choices in faculty meetings or other appropriate venues. (My next column will have more to say on leaders' use of stories.)

Another means by which leaders evoke feelings is by providing learning experiences that speak to the heart as well as the mind. The use of well-chosen poetry and video clips are two such methods. Another is to form panels of current or former students in which participants reveal salient aspects of their lives, their experiences in the school, and how well prepared they felt they were for the next phase of their lives.

It is important, of course, that leaders evoke feelings of hope and purposefulness rather than resignation and dependency. When leaders speak from their hearts to the hearts of others in ways that promote a sense of possibility and commitment to important goals and encourage others to do the same, they lead through learning.

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